Boards or the NCERT for printing of educational textbooks, against a purchase order placed upon the mill.

Lok Pal Bill

2362. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goverment propose to introduce Lok Pal Bill in the current session of the Parliament; and

(b) if so, whether Lok Pal will be empowered to direct prosecution proceedings in regular courts against the persons who are found prima facie guilty during the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Early introduction of Lok Pal Bill in the current session of Parliament is under active consideration of the Government.

Newsitem regarding larger borrowings

2363. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newsitem appearing in the Economic Times dated 7th June, 1996; under the caption "Repayment humps may force larger borrowing" has come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard for mobilising foreign Investment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The recent measurs for mobilising foreign investment included the following:

(i) Government have reconstituted the Forcign Investment Promotion Board. The Foreign Investment Promotion Council is proposed to be set up shortly. Together, they will expedite foreign investment approvals.

(ii) The restriction attached to the automatic approval procedure that value of foreign equity should cover the total import of capital goods has now been dropped.

(iii) The norms for Foreign Institutional Investors, External Commercial Borrowings and Global Depository Receipts have been liberalized to attract foreign investment.

Regional Rural Banks in Orissa

2364. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 991 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1996 and state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose for setting up district area banks in private sector;

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) whether any protest has been made by trade unions in this regard and if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There are nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the State of Orissa.

(b) With a view to providing institutional mechanisms for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economic activities in the local areas, it has been decided to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector. This is expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued the guidelines for setting up of local area Banks in the private sector. These include:

(i) These banks shall be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956.

(ii) They will .be required to obtain a licence under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

(iii) The promotors of the bank may comprise individuals, corporate entities, trusts and societies.

(iv) The minimum paid-up capital for such banks shall be Rs. 5 crores.

(v) The promoters' contribution towards the equity of such a bank shall be at least Rs. 2 crores.

(vi) The banks will be subject to prudential norms, accounting policies and other policies as are laid down by RBI, and

(vii) The banks will have to achieve capital adequacy of 8% of the risk weighted assets from the very begininng.

Further, the area of operation of these banks shall be a maximum of three geographically contiguous districts. The banks will observe the priority sector lending target at 40% of the net bank credit (NBC) as applicable to other domestic banks. Within the above target, these banks will be required to deploy at least 25% of their priority sector credit (10% of NBC) to the weaker sections.

(d) RBI has reported that All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association (AIRRBEA) has represented against this decision. However, RBI's view is that the demand for credit in rural areas and potential for mobilising savings from rural areas is large enough to allow for the viable operations of these new banks.

Target for sterilisation of eligible couples

2365. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target fixed for sterilisation of eligible couples under family welfare programmes in the country during the last three years and how far the progress has been made in the same during this period;

(b) the amount spent on the implementation of the health and family welfare schemes during the last three years; State-wise; and

(c) what new incentives Government propose to bring forward for controlling the population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM SHERVANI): (a) Annual targets and achievements in respect of Sterilisations during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as given below:

Year	ELA/Target	% Achievement
1993-94	5183100	86.8
1994-95	5326380	86.0
1995-96	5031014	78.5*

ELA - Expected Level of Achievement.

* Provisional figures. Excludes performance of Tamil Nadu, Kerala States and 18 Districts which were target free during 1995-96.

(b) A statement showing State-wise grants-in-aid released to States/UTs for family welfare programmes during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given at Annexure [*See* Appendix 128, Annexure 53]

(c) No new incentives are proposed to be introduced at present under the family welfare programme.

Illegal Badla Trading

2366. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal Badla Trading is going on in various stock exchanges; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by SEBI to stop these illegal Badla Trading?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that the revised system of carry-forward of transactions in securities has been introduced only by the Stock Exchange, Mumbai. Therefore, carrying forward of transactions in securities by members of any other stock exchange in the country is illegal and unlawful. SEBI has come across prima facie instances of carry-forward of transactions in the Stock Exchanges at Pune, Vadodara and Calcutta. SEBI has also recently received information regarding certain transactions by two stock-